

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: USLOK

1. PROSPECTS APPEAR REASONABLY GOOD THAT THE USG AND GOK WILL SOON REACH AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH US PERSONNEL WILL BE ASSIGNED TO USLOK. AFTER A FORMAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN INITIALED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOK CONCERNING THE NUMBERS AND KINDS OF ADVISORS DESIRED. PRESUMABLY, A LETTER OF OFFER SUBSEQUENTLY WILL BE PREPARED SEEKING GOK AGREEMENT TO PAY FOR THOSE ADVISERS THE USG IS WILLING TO PROVIDE.

2. IT APPEARS DESIRABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT NOW WITHIN THE USG CONCERNING THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL TO STAFF USLOK. EARLY DECISIONS MUST BE REACHED CONCERNING PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT EXISTING FMS PROGRAMS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO DETERMINE HOW MANY AND WHAT KINDS OF ADDITIONAL POSITIONS MIGHT BE OFFERED TO STAFF PROSPECTIVE NEW PROGRAMS. DECISIONS MADE NOW WILL SAVE TIME AND AVOID CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHEN ACTUAL CONSULTATIONS BEGIN WITH THE GOK.

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3. RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. JOHN CONSTANDY (IGA) AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF SUGGEST THAT CURRENT PLANS TO LIMIT THE SIZE OF USLOK TO NINE ARE UNREALISTIC AND IN NEED OF REVIEW. THE IGA TEAM WHICH RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDIES IN KUWAIT EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT OPTIMUM MANNING FOR USLOK COULD BE AS HIGH AS THIRTY, WITH SUPPORTING STAFF.

4. THE EMBASSY AGREES THIS SUBJECT SHOULD AGAIN BE EXAMINED LOOKING TOWARDS EARLY DECISIONS ON THE NUMBERS AND KINDS OF PERSONNEL TO BE MADE AVAILABLE. IF THE DEPARTMENT DESIRES, THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO MAKE NEW RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING USLOK MANNING LEVELS. ALTERNATIVELY, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE MIGHT WISH TO SEND A SURVEY/INSPECTION TEAM TO KUWAIT FOR THIS PURPOSE. PLEASE ADVISE.
STOLTZFUS

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